



*For Immediate Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Jenna Barrett  
(254) 761-3149  
[jbarrett@brazos.org](mailto:jbarrett@brazos.org).

**LEON RIVER WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN RELEASED  
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, MEETINGS SCHEDULED  
JANUARY 18, 2011 – HAMILTON, TX  
JANUARY 20, 2011 – COMANCHE, TX  
JANUARY 27, 2011 – GATESVILLE, TX**

*January 7, 2011* -- Brazos River Authority (BRA) is seeking comments on the draft Leon River Watershed Protection Plan (WPP). The Leon River watershed, located in the Brazos River Basin, is bound by Proctor Lake upstream and Belton Lake downstream and covers parts of Comanche, Erath, Hamilton, Mills, and Coryell Counties. Portions of the mainstem of the Leon River and several tributaries were first listed as impaired on the 1996 Texas §303(d) list for elevated levels of bacteria. The Leon River WPP, developed by local landowners as well as city and county governments, holistically addresses sources and causes of water quality impairments and identifies voluntary strategies to reduce bacteria concentrations throughout the watershed.

The draft WPP was released for public comment on December 17, 2010. CDs of the Draft WPP as well as printed versions are available on request and are also available for viewing at the following locations:

- Hamilton Public Library, 201 North Pecan Street, Hamilton, TX
- Gatesville Public Library, 11 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Gatesville, TX
- Comanche Public Library, 311 North Austin Street, Comanche, TX
- Hamilton County Extension Office, 724 South College Street, Hamilton, TX
- Comanche County Extension Office, 101 West Central Avenue, Suite 101B, Comanche, TX
- Coryell County Extension Office, 303 Veterans Memorial Loop, Gatesville, TX
- First National Bank of Dublin (in Gustine), 200 Main Street, Gustine, TX

The WPP can also be downloaded from the BRA's website at <http://www.brazos.org/LeonRiverWPP.asp>.

Public meetings will be held:

- January 18, 2011 at the Hamilton High School Auditorium, 611 South College Street, Hamilton, TX
- January 20, 2011 at the Comanche Community Center, 100 Indian Creek Drive in Comanche, TX
- January 27, 2011 at the Coryell County Annex Courtroom, 205 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Gatesville, TX

All meetings are from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and the same information will be presented at all three meetings.

Written comments should be submitted to Trey Buzbee, Brazos River Authority, PO Box 7555, Waco, TX 76714-7555, faxed to (254) 761-3205, or e-mailed to [tbuzbee@brazos.org](mailto:tbuzbee@brazos.org). All comments must be received by 5 p.m., Friday, February 18, 2011, and should reference Leon River WPP. For further information regarding this WPP, please contact Jenna Barrett at (254) 761-3149 or [jbarrett@brazos.org](mailto:jbarrett@brazos.org). Please feel free to pass this message on to anyone who may have an interest in this project.

The development of the Leon River WPP was made possible through a Clean Water Act §319(h) nonpoint source grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

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#### ***About the Brazos River Authority***

The Brazos River Authority, with headquarters in Waco, is the oldest river authority in Texas. Created by the Texas Legislature in 1929, the Authority's 42,000 square-mile territory includes all or part of 70 counties; extending from the Texas-New Mexico border west of Lubbock to the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport.

The Authority built, owns, and operates three reservoirs (Lakes Possum Kingdom, Granbury, and Limestone). In addition to these water supply reservoirs, the Authority contracts with the Corps of Engineers for the water supply storage space at eight federal multi-purpose flood control and water conservation reservoirs (Lakes Whitney, Belton, Proctor, Somerville, Stillhouse Hollow, Granger, Georgetown and Aquilla).

The Brazos River Authority owns and operates a regional wastewater system for the cities of Temple-Belton. The Authority also operates wastewater treatment plants for the cities of Georgetown, Dime Box, Clute-Richwood and Sugar Land. Through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Brazos River Authority operates wastewater treatment plants at Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System in Round Rock, the city of Hutto and the city of Liberty Hill.

The Authority owns and operates water treatment systems at Lake Granbury (which supplies potable water to wholesale customers in Hood and Johnson Counties), and the City of Taylor. The Authority also operates a potable water treatment plant for the City of Dime Box. A water treatment plant for the City of Leander is operated by the Brazos River Authority through an alliance with the Lower Colorado River Authority.

The Authority also engages in water quality monitoring activities throughout the Brazos River basin. As a member of the Texas Clean River Program, the Authority samples and tests water from 157 locations throughout the basin on either a monthly or quarterly basis. For further information on the Brazos River Authority, please contact Judi Pierce, Public Information Officer at 254-761-3103.